

Allowing a handful of large corporations to take ever-increasing control of the nation's major media outlets is a dangerous mistake, and Sinclair Broadcasting is apparently not hesitating to abuse their control, thus proving that point. I am referring specifically to Sinclair's mandate to the stations they control to broadcast (on public airwaves!!) a highly partisan "documentary" shortly before a presidential election, with at most a token attempt (a pretense, really) to provide a balanced perspective.

As I understand the law, Sinclair (like any other station owner) is required to serve the public interest, and is not permitted to put corporate interests and/or political interests of the company's owners ahead of the public interest - at least not so obviously as they are in this case. It's not difficult to see where this trend can lead - and will! - if permitted to continue unchecked.

It's bad enough that the current media system so effectively filters and shapes the information provided to citizens, essentially handing them preformed opinions and denying them adequate information with which they might form a properly informed opinion of their own. When that media system is in turn controlled by a small number of people who have no qualms about using it to manipulate public opinion toward their own personal financial, political, or other ends, we are well on our way to having a country that is no more a democracy than any of the "third world" countries we used to sneer at.

I urge you to DENY license renewals to Sinclair Broadcasting and any other station owners who choose to abuse their license to broadcast on public airwaves. Further, I urge you to make it harder, not easier, for a single corporate or other entity to directly control large numbers of media outlets.

Thank you.